

Composting in Massachusetts: Progress to Date



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Introduction

- Where were we?
- Where are we now?
- Where are we going:
Mapping the future?

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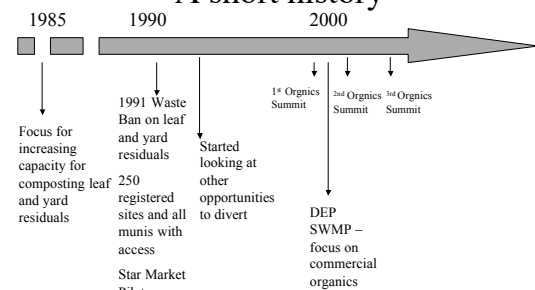
Food Hierarchy*

- Must manage food residuals locally:
 - Reduce
 - Reuse: feed people first
 - 10 food banks in the state
 - Use as animal feed
 - Handful of pig farmers in state – used to be more
 - Compost

*According to USDA & US EPA

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A short history



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Solid Waste Master Plan

- Beyond 2000 SWMP sets ambitious goal of 70% waste reduction by 2010; and 60% reduction of municipal solid waste, which includes organics.
- Commercial Organics a priority
 - Estimated 19% of the commercial waste stream (880,000 tons/year)
 - Less than 10% currently diverted

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What comes first? Collection or Capacity?

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Collection

Collection Pilots and Studies

- Food processors, supermarkets, universities, hospitals, prisons
- CTAG grants
- Biodegradable bag study

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Capacity

Site Capacity Building

- Funded capacity building projects thru:
 - RIRC
 - 16 grants = \$926k, leveraged \$2.8 million
 - Loan Fund
 - 1 loan = \$200k
- Technical Assistance for site development in certain areas of state

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Research

Organics Characterization

- Density mapping- identify generators
- Commercial characterization

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Mapping the Future

- Limited state resources
- Need to show benefits before investing in organics diversion efforts
- Need to build partnerships

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Mapping the Future

- Increase capacity
- Use regulations to remove road blocks; create market signal
- Create cultural change

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